

LINDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Summer Newsletter 2016

Thoughts from your Chairman

Taking into account that this year, spring seemed to have started on New Year's Day or thereabouts, I had thought that the flowers normally entered in the Spring Show would be well past their best by the date of the show. However, foolishly, I hadn't taken into account the skill, knowledge and experience of the experts amongst us. The wonderful display in the KEH on 2 April, just goes to show what little I know about such things, being a habitually pessimistic but enthusiastic veggie and soft fruit grower myself who has a great affinity for my allotment, where flowers are only planted to attract pollinators.

The LHS website will soon, if not already, have a short report and photographs of the Spring Show but I would like to congratulate everyone, and not just the winners, for their entries. The KEH hall looked at its best as it always does at all our shows.

The following were the winners of the various cups and certificate:-

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Tim Richardson - | The Daffodil Society Bronze Medal and Certificate |
| | The Fisk Cup |
| | The Lea Cup |
| | The Jeeves Cup |
| | The George Murrell Cup |
| Andrea Browne - | Daffodil Cup. |
| Jacqui Essen - | The Evelyn Drew Floral Art Cup |
| Deborah Novotny - | The Dawson Cup |
| Florence Fearn-Hughes - | The Keiron James Toys Shield |
| Liam Jolly - | The Junior Shield |

Best in Show:-

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Tim Richardson- | Vegetables |
| Debbie Anscombe- | Cookery |
| Polly McDonald- | Handicraft |

Personally, I must remember to have a close look at my garden before the Summer and Autumn shows as I did think that after marveling at the flowers on display at last year's summer show, I did (perhaps naively) consider that 'I could have done that' but didn't because my possible entries were in full bloom in my garden and not in the KEH. If you do not already do this, take a good look at your own garden before the closing entry date for each show you may have a 'winner' growing 'under your noses', particularly as it would be good if we could boost the number of entries at our shows.

It could be also worthwhile considering your vegetable crops more closely before each show. If you don't think that you have a 'classic' vegetable ready for one of the specific classes, there's always the 'any other' and 'misshapen (ugly?)' classes of vegetables to consider. I recall that my initial success at the first show I entered some years ago was in one such class.

I was unable (unorganised?) through a lack of planning, to enter any vegetable in the Spring Show myself and therefore, I cannot be envious of the vegetables on display but, of course, I was and still am. I enjoy most vegetables, particularly those that have been freshly picked. Does anyone know of any other better vegetable for the dinner plate than freshly picked asparagus (kindly donated to me by a neighbouring allotmenteer) or corn on the cob (who needs butter when the cob is picked at the right time, steamed and consumed before much of its sugar turns into starch?). Suggestions would be gratefully received. (Before anyone suggests; I've already had some steamed heads of broad bean plants before the black fly move in.)

Many of you will also know that 'bigger' is not always the best. I recall achieving a 'first' one year with supposedly 'prettier' marrows (to quote an unbiased onlooker) somewhat smaller than a much larger 'good looking' (but not 'prettier') marrow entry in the same class.

The evening talks this year have been well supported and I found them varied and very enjoyable. .

Our stall on Village Day was once again very successful, thanks to all the suppliers and volunteers.

The weather earlier this year appeared to have made many gardeners uneasy but 'things' have seemed to have turned out OK (don't they always?)

The trip to Mottisfont and West Dean was very successful and we managed to avoid the worst of the weather. The roses at Mottisfont were spectacular and seeing the gardens and Victorian Glasshouses at West Dean were a bonus, as was the amazing date flapjack on sale in their lovely restaurant which is worth a visit whether or not you want to pay to go into their garden.

As usual, I'm looking forward to the Summer Show (which will soon be 'on us'), the Autumn Show and to the outings, and of course, to a good harvest on my allotment.

Spring Show 2017 – Special Daffodil Class

This year's special spring bulb class of Muscari (grape Hyacinths) was quite successful and so we have decided to keep it as a class for 2017. However, as the Special Daffodil class has been so successful in the past we have decided to include that as well. Not only do we have a class that everyone can enter but it also improves Member's stock of daffodils and gives them the opportunity of competing more successfully in future years.

The Society will be purchasing bulbs in bulk which we will sell to Members at this Autumn's Show. The rules will be similar to those in the past. There will be a specific class for entry of your best stem and there will be prize money of £5 for First, £3 for second and £2 for third. This will be a separate from the main show and will not attract points towards other cups or prizes.

We would like to thank our Show Superintendent, Richard Hilson, for his help in researching and organising this project.

Summer Show 2016

This will be held on Saturday 9th July 2016 in the King Edward Hall. This is the Society's second show of the year and will be a magnificent display of locally grown flowers, fruit, vegetables, floral art and children's exhibits.

Please have a look at your schedule to see if there is anything you can enter, we would love to have more Members enter even if it is just with one flower. The last thing we want to hear from Members, when they are walking round the Show, is that they have better in their gardens.

The show will be open to the public from 2.00pm. Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available together with a selection of plants. Last orders in the Tea Room will be at 4.45pm

The presentation of the Societies awards will take place at 5pm and will be followed by the raffle.

Exhibitors are reminded that written entries should be delivered to 36 Dukes Road or 67 Brookway by 10pm on Wednesday 6th July and that entries can also be made by email to debanov@fsmail.net or by telephone to 01444 483871 up to 1pm on Thursday 7th July. Exhibits may be staged between 7pm and 9pm on the Friday or between 8am and 10.30am on the Saturday. Exhibitors are reminded that no

exhibit should be removed from the Show bench until after the presentations. The Show rules and timetable are on pages 10 to 15 of your Schedules and collection numbers are on pages 22 and 23.

Changes to the Programme for 2017

As you are probably aware the fall in Membership has concerned your Committee over recent years, so we have decided to add two new ventures to the normal tried and trusted programme.

The Coffee morning on Saturday the 4th February 2017 will include a seed swap, where you will be invited to bring along seeds you have saved and to leave with something different from another Member. More details will follow in due course. Of course we will still have coffee and biscuits, plants for sale, the raffle and time to natter to friends.

In June 2017 we are proposing to hold a 'Gardeners Question Time' where an invited panel of knowledgeable Horticulturalists will answer your question. Again more details will follow.

Future of the Sundries Centre

We have appealed to Members for help in keeping the Societies Sundries Centre open and we are pleased to say that 3 people have come forward to help on the opening days, for which we are extremely grateful. However, no one person or group has come forward to take on any of the administrative tasks, especially the stock control.

It now seems highly likely that the Centre will have to close in 2018, no bulk purchases will be made during 2017 although the Centre will be open on certain dates in order to run down stock.

If you want to keep the Centre open and you are willing to help please contact a Committee Member as soon as possible. It would not be difficult if a small group were willing to work together.

Garden Allotment

You may have seen the initiative in the local RH magazine, encouraging people, with large gardens that they have difficulty managing, to allow a local resident to cultivate part of part of that garden in exchange for a little help with the rest of the garden. We have been approached by a Member who has a large garden in Gander Hill (the roundabout end) who would like to offer her garden to such a scheme but specifically to an LHS Member. If you are interested please let us know and we will put you in contact.

Open Garden Denmans Lane

We would like to congratulate and thank Jim and Sue Stockwell on the opening of their garden in aid of St Peters and St James. It was a wonderful afternoon below is a note from Jim and Sue regarding the event.

Dear family, friends, helpers and supporters

Sue and I would like to thank you all so much for your help in organising, promoting and running our open garden event. The weather was quite a challenge, but despite dire warnings of downpours and a very wet morning, we managed to attract 300 paying visitors (and quite a few children) which raised £900.

We also raised £353 from tea and cake sales plus £93 from jam and fudge. The tombola raised £116 and plant sales a magnificent £415, making a grand total on the day of approximately **£1,900**. In addition to this we collected donations in a sealed hospice tin which will be opened by the Hospice in due course.

We had also raised just over £100 last Friday from a private opening for the Sussex Hardy Plant Society.

So in total we have raised just over **£2000**.

We really enjoyed the day and I hope you all did as well - it was a lot of hard work, but it was a great pleasure to be able to count on your support and to meet so many friends.

We are hoping to build on this success and establish a Lindfield garden trail in 2017! I do hope you will be able to support this venture.
Once again - many thanks for your help.

With very best wishes.

Sue and Jim

Charity Gift

One of our Vice Presidents David Macmillan has been given 10 ltrs (2 x 5 ltrs) of Cuprinol Wood Preservative in 'Forget-Me-Not Blue' for the benefit of any charitable purpose interested, originally labelled at £20 each, David is open to any reasonable offer. If you are interested please give him a ring on 01444 453608

Outing Reminder

We have 3 places left on the outing to Savill Garden and Wisley on Wednesday 20th July. The fee for this trip is £25.25 to include morning coffee and cake at Savill garden, entry fees and the coach and drivers tip.

There are 10 places available on the outing to Sarah Raven's garden and Groombridge Place in East Sussex on the Thursday 18th August. The basic fee for the trip is £32.50 and there are optional garden tours at both places.

We have just a couple of places left on the mini bus to Great Comp on Sunday 11th September but plenty of space for those who want to drive themselves. The fee for going by minibus is likely to be about £20 and for those travelling independently £7.

Finally, we have about 4 places on the outing to Kew Gardens on Friday 16th September. For those who get a free entry to Kew, the fee is £16 and for those paying for entry it will be £29.50.

Volunteers

Needless to say, the Society's activities and events could not function without the organisers and helpers. Your committee thanks the volunteers concerned. Also, needless to say, we are looking for more volunteers to come forward to help and, if possible, suggest other activities/events which may be worthwhile.

Useful Numbers

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|----------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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